## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED)    An    image    processing    method, comprising the steps of:

receiving specification of a first area having a desired color-tone in a displayed image;

receiving specification of a second area in the image or in another image; and

changing a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area while continuously changing the color tone at a border of the second area based on cumulative histograms of colors of the first and second areas.

2.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED)    An    image    processing    apparatus, comprising:

display means for image display;

area specification means for specifying a first area having a desired color-tone in an image displayed on the display means and a second area in the image or in another image; and

conversion means for converting a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area while continuously

changing the color tone at a border of the second area ~~based on cumulative~~

~~histograms of colors of the first and second areas~~.

3.      (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

receiving specification of a first area having a desired color-tone in a displayed image;

receiving specification of a second area in the image or in another image; and

changing a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area while continuously changing the color tone at a border of the second area ~~based on cumulative histograms of colors of the first and second areas~~.

4.      (WITHDRAWN) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving specification of a first area having a desired color-tone in a displayed image;

receiving specification of a second area in the image or in another image; and

changing a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area,

wherein the color-tone of the second area is changed gradually at a boundary of the second area.

5.     (WITHDRAWN) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

display means for image display;

area specification means for specifying a first area having a desired color-tone in an image displayed on the display means and a second area in the image or in another image; and

conversion means for converting a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area,

wherein the color-tone of the second area is changed gradually at a boundary of the second area.

6.     (WITHDRAWN) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

receiving specification of a first area having a desired color-tone in a displayed image;

receiving specification of a second area in the image or in another image; and

changing a color-tone of a desired area including the second area into the color-tone of the first area,

wherein the color-tone of the second area is changed gradually at a boundary of the second area.

7.    (NEW) The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the step of changing the color-tone of the desired area including the second area includes:

obtaining cumulative histograms of the first area and the second area; and

correlating the cumulative histogram of the first area and the cumulative histogram of the second area.

8.    (NEW) The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the step of changing the color-tone of the desired area including the second area includes changing the color-tone of a skin color area included in the second area to the color-tone of a skin color included in the first area.

9.    (NEW) The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the first area includes a plurality of facial areas.

10.    (NEW) The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the desired area that includes the second area is one of an entirety of the second area, a specific area within the second area, an entirety of an image that includes the second area, and an area comprising the second area and other areas.

11.    (NEW) The image processing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the conversion means are configured to:

obtain cumulative histograms of the first area and the second area; and

correlate the cumulative histogram of the first area and the cumulative histogram of the second area.

12.    (NEW) The image processing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the conversion means are configured to change the color-tone of a skin color area included in the second area to the color-tone of a skin color included in the first area.

13.    (NEW) The image processing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first area includes a plurality of facial areas.

14.    (NEW) The image processing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the desired area that includes the second area is one of an entirety of the second area, a specific area within the second area, an entirety of an image that includes the second area, and an area comprising the second area and other areas.

15.    (NEW) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 3, wherein the procedure of changing the color-tone of the desired area including the second area includes:

obtaining cumulative histograms of the first area and the second area; and

correlating the cumulative histogram of the first area and the cumulative histogram of the second area.

16.    (NEW) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 3, wherein the procedure of changing the color-tone of the desired area including the second area includes changing the color-tone of a skin color area included in the second area to the color-tone of a skin color included in the first area.

17.    (NEW) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 3, wherein the first area includes a plurality of facial areas.

18.    (NEW) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 3, wherein the desired area that includes the second area is one of an entirety of the second area, a specific area within the second area, an entirety of an image that includes the second area, and an area comprising the second area and other areas.